

2.17 STUDY SCHEDULES

WAC 463-42-285 Proposal – Study schedules. *The applicant shall furnish a brief description of all present or projected schedules for additional environmental studies. The studies descriptions should outline their scope and indicate projected completion dates.*

Additional Rare Plant Studies

A follow up rare plant survey is planned for spring 2003 to confirm that no rare plants are present in the areas that have not yet been intensively surveyed for rare plants. Due to changes in the final Project layout between the time the initial rare plant survey was conducted and the present, some areas have not yet been surveyed for rare plants. These will be surveyed at the appropriate time in spring 2003, based on the timing of occurrence of the target specie(s). It is unlikely, though, that significant rare plant populations exist within these unsurveyed corridors. In all cases, the habitat in the unsurveyed corridors is similar to that encountered in the surveyed areas (where no threatened or endangered plant species were found.) This study is described in greater detail Section 3.4.1, 'Vegetation'. The results of this study will be submitted to EFSEC as soon as they are completed.

Additional Television Reception Studies

As described in Section 5.3.3.7, 'Public Services-Communications', the Applicant plans a baseline field study to precisely measure the current level of off-air television reception in an area northwest of the Project site. This will be done to evaluate potential impacts to television reception from the Project. This study is planned for spring 2003.

After the Project is built, the Applicant plans a follow-up field study to determine if the quality of television reception is degraded in this area by the Project. In the unlikely event that the Project does create any significant television reception problems for people in this area, the Applicant will develop a solution in cooperation with affected residents.

Additional Avian Monitoring Study

After construction of the Project, a monitoring study is planned to evaluate any impacts to birds from the Project. The monitoring study will include the following components:

- Fatality monitoring involving standardized carcass searches, scavenger removal trials, searcher efficiency trials, and reporting of incidental fatalities by maintenance personnel and others;
- A minimum of one breeding season raptor nest survey of the study area and a 1 mile buffer to locate and monitor active raptor nests potentially affected by the construction and operation of the wind plant.

The results of this monitoring will be submitted to EFSEC and other interested parties as they become available. Monitoring plans are described in greater detail in Section 3.4.7, 'Proposed Mitigation Measures for Potential Impacts to Plants and Animals'.